

ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

The definitions and abbreviations included herein are most common to Forest Service management and planning terminology. Meanings may differ when used in context other than these documents. The sources of the definitions vary, but the majority were taken from the Regional Guide for the Pacific Northwest FSM, FSH, the Wildland Planning Glossary, NFMA Regulations (36 CFR 21.9), and CEO Regulations (40 CFR 151.508). Some definitions have been shortened, paraphrased, or adapted to match usage implied within this document.

ACRONYMS

BLM	USDI-Bureau of Land Management
CRM	Cultural Resource Management
CWD	Coarse Woody Debris
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height*
DF	Douglas-fir
EA	Environmental Assessment (also E.A.)*
FIL	Fire Intensity Level
FS	USDA-Forest Service
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
GIS	Geographic information System*
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
LSR	Late-Successional Reserve*
LWM	Large Woody Material*
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NFS	National Forest System land
NWFP	Northwest Forest Plan
NPS	National Park Service
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ONHDB	Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base
P.L	Public Law (also PL)
PNW	Pacific Northwest
POC	Port-Orford-cedar
PSW	Pacific Southwest
R-5	Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (also R5)
R-6	Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region (also R6)
R.D.	Ranger District (also RD)*
RNA	Research Natural Area*
S&G	Standard and Guideline
T&E	Threatened and Endangered Species*
TPA	Trees Per Acre
TSI	Timber Stand Improvement*

TSP	Total Suspended Particles
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of the Interior
USFS	USDA- Forest Service
USFWS	USDI- Fish and Wildlife Service

* Term defined in Glossary

GLOSSARY

A

Activity

The work processes or management practices that are conducted to produce, enhance, or maintain outputs or achieve administrative and environmental quality objectives. An activity can generate multiple outputs.

Age Class

One of the intervals into which the age range of trees is divided for classification or use.

Airshed

A geographical area that because of topography, meteorology, and climate, shares the same air.

Allocation

The assignment of management prescriptions to specific land areas to achieve goals and objectives.

Anadromous Fish

Species of fish which mature in the ocean and migrate into streams to spawn; use herein refers to salmon and steelhead.

Animal Community

Any assemblage of animals which interact and occur in a common area.

Appropriate Suppression Response

The kind, amount, and timing of suppression action on a wildfire that most efficiently meets fire management direction under current and expected burning conditions.

Association

(Plant Ecology) A kind of plant community with a definite species composition and structure, and relatively uniform environment.

B

Basal Area

The cross-sectional area, in square feet, of a tree measured at breast height (4.5 feet).

Big Game

Those species of large mammals normally managed for sport hunting. Herein, generally refers to Roosevelt elk, blacktail deer, or black bear.

Biological Diversity

The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species over time and space.

Biological Growth potential

The average net growth attainable in a fully stocked natural forest stand.

Biotic Community

Any interacting assemblage of animal and plant communities living in a prescribed area or physical habitat.

Botanical Area

An area which has been designated by the Forest Service as containing specimens or groups of plants, and plant communities which are significant because of form, color, occurrences, habitat, location, life history, arrangement, ecology, environment, rarity and/or other features (FSM 2360).

C

Canopy

The uppermost spreading, branchy layer of a forest.

Canopy Closure

The progressive reduction in space between tree crowns as they spread laterally (Ford-Robertson 1971); a measure of the percent of potential open space occupied by the collective tree crowns in a stand.

Canopy Gap

A break in the forest canopy. A naturally-occurring area of bare soil, grasses, forbs, or shrubs located in a large area dominated by trees.

Capability

The potential of an area of land to produce resources, supply goods and services, and allow resource uses under an assumed set of management practices at a given level of management intensity. Capability depends upon current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, and geology, as well as the application of management practices, such as silviculture, or protection from fire, insects, and disease.

Cavity Nester

Wildlife species that excavate and/or occupy cavities in trees and snag.

Climax.

The culminating stage in plant succession for a given site where the vegetation has reached a highly stable conditions.

Climax Structural Stage

A vegetation condition of large trees (>48") as detected by satellite data.

Commercial Thinning

Timber sales that call for selective harvest in immature stands designed to improve the quality and growth of the remaining habitat

Confine Wildfire Strategy

To restrict fire within determined boundaries.

Contain Wildfire Strategy

To surround a fire with control line to check the fire's spread.

Control Wildfire Strategy

To complete and hold the control line around a fire.

Cover

Vegetation used by wildlife for protection from predators, or to ameliorate conditions of weather, or in which to reproduce.

Cover/Forage Ratio

The ratio, in percent of the amount of area in forage conditions to that in cover conditions.

Critical Habitat

That habitat designated by the Secretary, USDI, as critical to the continued survival of threatened or endangered species.

D

Desired Residue Profile

The desired level of both living and dead vegetative material desired by the land manager for a specific site or prescription. Residue includes slash materials, litter on the forest floor, living brush, tree and standing dead trees and snags.

Developed Recreation

Outdoor recreation requiring significant capital investment in facilities to handle a concentration of visitors on a relatively small area. Examples are ski areas, resorts and campgrounds.

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

The diameter of a standing tree measured at a point four feet-five inches from ground level on the uphill side.

Direct Attack

A method of fire suppression that treats the fire at its burning edge.

Dispersed Recreation

Outdoor recreation in which visitors are dispersed over relatively large areas. Where facilities or developments are provided, they are more for access and protection of the environment than for the comfort or convenience of the people.

Diversity

The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within an area

E

Early Seral Structural Stage

A vegetation condition of trees (>12" and <22" dbh) as detected by satellite data.

Ecosystem

The complete system formed by the interaction of a group of organisms and their environment

Ecosystem Function

The manner in which organisms interact with each other and their environments.

Edaphic

Pertaining to the soil.

Edge

Where plant communities meet or where successional stages of vegetative conditions within plant communities come together, e.g., field and woodland, forest and meadow.

Edge Effect

The increased richness of flora and fauna resulting from the mixing of two communities where they join, as at the edge of a meadow.

Endangered Species

Any plant or animal species which is in danger of extinction through all or a significant portion of its range (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

Endemic Species

A species whose natural occurrence is confined to a certain region and whose distribution is relatively limited.

Environment

The aggregate of physical, biological, economic, and social factors affecting organisms in an area.

Erosion

Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. Accelerated erosion is much more rapid than normal, natural, or geologic erosion, primarily as a result of the influence of activities of man, animals, or natural catastrophes.

Escaped Fire Situation Analysis

A study of the factors influencing the suppression of a fire not controlled during initial attack, conducted for the purpose of deciding which suppression strategy will be used.

Expected Burned Acreage

The expected annual number of acres burned by fire size class and intensity level for a given program option or budget level, and which must equal or be less than the resource protection objective to be a valid option.

F**Fire Intensity Level (FIL)**

A relative measure of fire severity based on flame height, higher flames indicating a more intense fire.

Fire Management Analysis Zone (FMAZ)

The geographically delineated areas into which the planning unit is divided for the purpose of analysis based upon common fire-behavior characteristics.

Floodplain

The lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters, including, at a minimum, the area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Forage

Vegetation used for food by wildlife, particularly ungulate wildlife and domestic livestock.

Forb

Any herbaceous plant species other than those in the Gramineae (grasses), Cyperaceae (sedges), and Juncaceae (rushes) families; fleshy-leaved plants.

Forage Areas

Vegetated areas with less than 60 percent combined canopy closure of tree and tall shrub (greater than seven feet in height). This includes the grass-forb, shrub and open sapling-pole stand conditions and may include some older stands that have been thinned. In a managed forest the primary forage areas are those that have had all or most of the forest canopy removed, i.e. clearcut or shelterwood units.

Forest Fragmentation

The creation of habitat islands through land development or through natural causes, such as fire.

Forest Land

Land at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for nonforest use. Lands developed for nonforest use include areas for crops, improved pasture, residential, or administrative areas, improved roads of any width, and adjoining road clearing and powerline clearing of any width.

Fry

The life stage of salmonid fish species that refers to the juvenile fish which have either not emerged from the gravel or have recently emerged.

Fuel Treatment

The process of removing and/or modifying natural or human created fuels to reduce fire hazard and achieve other resource objectives.

G

Game Species

Any species of wildlife or fish for which hunting seasons and bag limits have been established, and which are normally harvested by hunters and fishermen.

Goal

A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. Normally expressed in broad, general terms, it is timeless in that it has no specific date by which it is to be completed. Goal statements form the basis from which objectives are developed.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

An information processing technology to input, store, manipulate, analyze, and display spatial resource data to support the decision-making process of an organization. Generally, an electronic medium for processing map information, typically used with manual processes, to effect specific decisions about the land base and its resources.

H

Habitat

The natural environment of a plant or animal.

Habitat Diversity

Distribution and abundance of plant and wildlife habitats.

Habitat Island

The occurrence of a habitat such as an old-growth forest that is physically separated from the next closest habitat of the same type by vegetation that is markedly different in composition and structure.

Hard Snag

A snag composed primarily of sound wood, particularly sound sapwood; generally merchantable,

Hardwood

A conventional term for the wood of broadleaf trees. Hardwood areas referenced herein are usually the result of past forest fires, and once supported conifer trees in the past. See Tentatively Suitable Forest Land.

Hazard Reduction

Any treatment of forest fuels that reduces the threat of ignition, or spread of wildfire.

Hiding Cover

Vegetation capable of hiding 90 percent of a standing adult deer or elk at 200 feet or km. Includes some shrub stands and all forested stand conditions with adequate tree stem density or shrub layer to hide animals. In some cases, topographic features also can provide hiding cover.

I

Indicator Species

Species of fish, wildlife, or plants that reflect ecological changes caused by land management activities. See Management Indicator Species.

Individual Trees Selection

The selection of trees for harvest based on individual tree characteristics.

Instream Flow

Streamflow required to support instream uses, the flow required varying widely by type of channel, water quality, and time of distribution.

Interior Habitat

Habitat located within a patch of vegetation which does not include the environment influenced by edge effect (depending on species - 120 to 240 meters in from the edge).

L

Land Allocation

The assignment of a management emphasis to particular land areas with the purpose of achieving the goals and objectives of the alternative.

Land Class

The topographic relief of a unit of land. Land classes are separated by slope.

Landscape Ecology

The science of describing and understanding how plant and animal species and communities interact across watershed- and regional-scale areas.

Land Stratification

Inventory of land according to a set of specific land characteristics, such as the ability to support owls or the ability to resist erosion.

Large Woody Material

Standing and down trees which provide wildlife and fish habitat, and site productivity. This term is interchangeable with Coarse Woody Debris (CWD), a term in the Northwest Forest Plan.

Late Seral Structural Stage

A vegetation condition of large trees (>32" and <48") as detected by satellite data.

Late-Successional Reserve

A land allocation established by the Northwest Forest Plan whose goals are to maintain the viability of species associated with older forests.

Local Road

A road constructed to provide access to specific resource areas. As such, these roads connect terminal facilities with Forest collector or arterial roads or public highways.

M

Management Area

An area composed of aggregate pieces of land (generally several to many analysis are-as) to which a given management objective and prescriptions are applied.

Management Direction

A statement of multiple use and other goals and objectives, along with the associated management prescriptions and standards and guidelines to direct resource management

Management Indicator Species

Management indicator species are animals or plants selected for special attention in the Forest Plan for one or more of three reasons. They may be:

1. Emphasis species - species to be managed as key resources on the basis of identified issues, e.g., threatened, endangered, rare, sensitive, harvest, or special interest species;
2. Indicate special habitat conditions - species that require special habitat such as snags, riparian, old-growth forest stands, etc.; and/or
3. Indicate cumulative forest ecosystem change - generally species having large home ranges and requiring a diversity of habitats.

Management Practice

A specific action, measure, course of action, or treatment.

Mass Failure (also Wasting)

All geologic processes in which earth materials move downslope, either slowly or quickly, by gravitational forces.

Midseral Structural Stage

A vegetation condition of large trees (>22" and <32") as detected by satellite data.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The evaluation, on a sample basis, of Forest Plan management practices to determine how well objectives are being met as well as the effects of those management practices on the land and environment.

N**Native species**

A plant or animal species that occurs indigenously in an area.

Natural Opening

A break in the forest canopy. A naturally-occurring area of bare soil, grasses, forbs, or shrubs located in a large area dominated by trees.

Naturalized Species

A non-native species established as if it were a native species.

NEPA Process

An interdisciplinary process, mandated by the NEPA, which concentrates decisionmaking around issues, concerns, alternatives and the effects of alternatives on the environment.

Nonforest Land

Lands that never have had or that are incapable of having 10 percent or more of the area occupied by forest trees; or lands previously having such cover and currently developed for nonforest use.

Nonvegetative

Rock and rock outcrops.

Northwest Forest Plan

The Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April, 1994).

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Objective

Specific statement of measurable planned results to be achieved within a stated time period. Reflects alternative mixes of all outputs or achievement which can be attained at a given budget level.

Older Forests

Any stand of trees generally containing the following characteristics: (1) stands contain mature and overmature trees in the overstory and are well into the mature growth stage, (2) stands will usually contain a multi-layered canopy with trees of several age classes; (3) standing dead trees and down material are present; and (4) evidence of human activities may be present, but do not significantly alter the other characteristics and are a subordinate factor in the stand description.

Overstory

The portion of trees in a forest which forms the uppermost layer of foliage.

P

Peak Flow

The highest value of stream stage or flow attained during a flood.

Perennial Streams

Streams that normally flow throughout the year.

Peridotite

Plutonic rocks containing olivine, amphibole, pyroxenes, and micas. See Ultramafic.

Pioneer Structural Seral Stage

A vegetation condition of trees (<12") as detected by satellite data.

Pioneer Species

A plant capable of invading bare sites (newly exposed soil surface) and persisting there, i.e., "colonizing them, until supplanted.

Plant Series

Any assemblage of plants which occur in the same area and that form a distinct ecological unit.

Pool/Riffle Ratio

The ratio of pools to riffles, expressed as a percentage, used to describe fish habitat rearing quality.

Population

All interbreeding individuals of a given species living in a particular area.

Population Viability

The degree to which a population can maintain itself over time; population viability analysis is the process by which this is estimated. See also Viable Population.

Precommercial Thinning

The selective felling or removal of trees in a young stand, conducted to accelerate diameter growth on remaining trees, maintain a specific stocking density, and improve vigor and quality of remaining trees; conducted at an age before the trees are commercially merchantable.

Prescribed Fire

Intentional application of fire, of either planned or unplanned ignitions, to accomplish certain planned objectives.

Prescription

Management practices selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain goals and objectives.

Presuppression

Activities conducted in advance of fire occurrence to insure effective suppression.

R**Ranger District (R.D.)**

Administrative subdivision of the Forest, supervised by a District Ranger who reports to the Forest Supervisor.

Rare

Plant or animal species that are uncommon in a specific area. All endangered, threatened, and sensitive species can be considered rare, but the converse is not true.

Rearing Habitat

The river or stream areas where juvenile salmonids must find food and shelter to survive for a period of time.

Recreation River

See Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers.

Redd

Nest in gravel of stream bottom where fish deposit eggs; herein, refers to salmon spawning redds.

Reforestation

The natural or artificial restocking of an area with forest trees; includes measures to obtain natural regeneration, as well as tree planting and seeding. The work is done on National Forests to produce timber and other forest products, protect watershed functioning, prevent erosion, and improve other social and economic values of the forests, such as wildlife, recreation, and natural beauty.

Regeneration

The renewal of a tree crop, whether by natural or artificial means. Also the young tree crop (seedlings and saplings) itself.

Release

All work done to free desirable trees from competition with other less desirable vegetation.

Research Natural Area (RNA)

An area representing the major natural timber types or other plant communities in unmodified condition (FSM 4060). A natural plant community established for research and study of ecosystem and their changes.

Resource Area

Administrative subdivision of the BLM, supervised by an Area Manager who reports to the District Manager.

Riparian Areas

Terrestrial areas where the vegetation and microclimate are influenced by perennial and/or intermittent water, associated high water tables and soils which exhibit some wetness characteristics; this habitat is transitional between true bottom land wetlands and upland terrestrial habitats and, while associated with water courses, may extend inland for considerable distance.

Riparian Ecosystems

See Riparian Areas.

Riparian Habitat

See Riparian Areas.

Riparian Reserves.

Riparian areas, as defined by the Northwest Forest Plan.

Risk

Different possible outcomes, where a probability can be assigned to each outcome with a degree of accuracy.

River Corridor

A strip of land, ridgetop-to-ridgetop, which is seen or potentially seen from a river.

Road Corridor

A strip of land between two points used by a road, or some future road whose exact location remains to be determined; usually with an indefinite width.

S

Salmonid

Member of the fish family, *Salmonidae*; includes salmon and trout.

Salvage

Removal of recently-dead or dying trees to minimize the loss of wood products.

Scenic River

See Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers.

Sensitive Species

Those Plant and animal species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in (a) population numbers or density, or (b) habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Seral Stage

A transitory or developmental stage of a biotic community in an ecological succession (does not include structural seral stage).

Serpentine

A mineral or rock (serpentine) consisting essentially of a hydrous magnesium silicate usually having a dull green color and often a mottled appearance. Term sometimes used with soil, to indicate environmental conditions found on soils derived from serpentine or peridotite. See Ultramafic.

Silviculture

The art and science of growing and tending forest vegetation, i.e., controlling the establishment, composition, and growth of forests, for specific management goals.

Smolt

Juvenile salmon or steelhead which are ready to leave freshwater for the ocean. They mature in the ocean before returning as adults to rivers and streams to spawn.

Snag

A standing dead tree.

Spatial

Referring to the distance, interval, or area between or within things.

Species

Organisms that successfully reproduce among themselves and cannot reproduce successfully with other organisms.

Species Diversity

The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species.

Stand

A community of trees or other vegetation sufficiently uniform in composition, constitution, age, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from adjacent communities and so form a silvicultural or management entity.

Steelhead

A large-sized, silvery anadromous rainbow trout.

Stocking

The degree to which trees occupy the land, measured by basal area and/or number of trees by size and spacing, compared with a stocking standard; that is, the basal area and/or number of trees required to fully utilize the land's growth potential.

Stream Class

The classification of streams according to their beneficial uses. Whole streams or parts of streams can be classified. One stream may be divided into several classes.

Class I. Perennial or intermittent streams have one or more of the following characteristics: (1) is the direct source of water for domestic use (cities, recreation sites, etc.); (2) Are used by large numbers of fish for spawning, rearing, or migration; (3) Flow enough water to have a major influence on water quality of a Class I stream.

Class II. Perennial or intermittent streams have one or both of the following characteristics: (1) Are used by moderate though significant numbers of fish for spawning, rearing, or migration; (2) Flow enough water to have a moderate influence on downstream quality of a Class I or II stream.

Class III. All other perennial streams not meeting Class I or Class II definitions.

Class IV. All other intermittent streams not meeting Class I, II, or III definitions.

Structural Successional Stage

The size of trees in a stand, as depicted by satellite data.

Successional Stage

A stage or recognizable condition of a plant community which occurs during its development from bare ground to climax.

Suppression Strategy

The broad application of plans and tactics to a specific fire situation; basic strategies include confine, contain, and control.

T**Talus**

The loose accumulation of fragmented rock material on slopes, especially at the base of a cliff.

Temporal

Referring to time.

Terrestrial

Living on land; distinguished from aquatic (living in water).

Threatened Species

Any species of plant or animal which is likely to become endangered within its foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)

Measures such as thinning, pruning, release cutting, prescribed fire, girdling, weeding, etc., of unwanted trees with the objective of improving growing conditions of the remaining trees.

Tolerance

The forestry term for expressing the relative capacity of a tree to compete under low light and high root competition:

Tolerant Trees - Trees that reproduce and form understories beneath canopies of less tolerant trees or even beneath shade of their own species.

Intolerant Trees - Trees that reproduce successfully only in the open or where the canopy is greatly broken.

Travel Corridor

A road, trail, or waterway used by people; or a strip of land used by wildlife.

Turbidity

The optical property of water as affected by suspension of material such as sediment, i.e., the muddy or cloudy state of water.

U**Ultramafic**

Intrusive rocks composed chiefly of mafic minerals such as olivine, pyroxene, and serpentine. Also called ultrabasic. See Peridotite and Serpentine

Understory

Vegetation (trees or shrubs) growing under the canopy formed by taller trees.

V**Viability**

Capable of living, growing, and developing.

Viable Population

A population of plants or animals large enough and distributed in such a way as to ensure their continued existence over a specified period of time, usually on the order of decades to centuries.

W**Watershed**

The land area drained by a river system.

Wetlands

Areas inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support, and that, under normal circumstances, do or would support, a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats and natural ponds.

Wild, Scenic, and Recreation Rivers

Rivers or river segments that have been designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (Public Law 90-542, 1968). Criteria for classification are as follows):

Wild Rivers - Those rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic Rivers - Those rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreation Rivers - Those rivers or sections of rivers readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Wilderness

All lands included in the National Wilderness Preservation System by public law; generally defined as undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation.